

At approximately 12:30am on Saturday October 21, 2017, Parkersburg fire crews responded to a fire at the Intercontinental Export and Import Company Plant #1 on Camden Ave in Parkersburg, WV. The facility is a warehouse containing many plastics-related and other unknown materials. EPA received an NRC report for the fire emergency at 5:00pm on October 21, 2017. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Debbie Lindsey coordinated with West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) officials. WVDEP requested EPA assistance with air monitoring. Two Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors were deployed, and EPA facilitated air monitoring started around 1:00am on October 22, 2017. Particulate air monitoring has been conducted in 4 different locations surrounding the fire 24 hours a day as weather and field conditions permit since this start.

Data presented in the documents section of this website show the results of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and course dust particulate matter (PM₁₀) air monitoring conducted by EPA. Air monitoring was conducted using DataRAM Particulate Monitors. Instantaneous (or real time) readings from the DataRAMs are presented as a blue line on the graphs. The numbers on the left axis of the graph show the concentration of particulate matter in the air at a given time (shown on the bottom axis of the graph). The air monitors were placed in a stationary location during the time period shown on the bottom of the graph. You will see “peaks” on the graph which represent times at which the smoke was blown in the direction of our monitor. The intensity of these peaks varies depending on the concentration of particulate matter in the air. The Time-Weighted Average (TWA) is presented as a green line on the graphs. This line is an average of all the instantaneous readings over the monitoring period indicated at the bottom of the graph.

Particulate air monitoring is expected to continue, weather permitting, through at least Monday. Data will be assessed on Monday to determine if there is still a need for air monitoring.

EPA is continuously coordinating with personnel from the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, and Wood County Health Department officials for assistance assessing a variety of monitoring and sampling results from state, local, and federal sources to determine the implications on public health.